



Box 1433J, G.P.O., Adelaide  
South Aust. 5001  
TELEPHONE: 23 9911  
TELEX: AA82106

CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SEASON 1967-68

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from more than 5,500 farmers whose crops exceed 60 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

SUMMARY OF AREA AND PRODUCTION

Reports in March 1967 indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 3,324,000 acres of wheat, 1,312,000 acres of barley, and 1,144,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 2,985,000 acres to wheat - only 90 per cent of the area intended, 1,268,000 acres to barley - approximately 97 per cent of that intended, and 905,000 acres to oats - approximately 79 per cent of that intended.

The estimated production of wheat, barley, and oats in the 1967-68 harvest is 25,996,000 bushels of wheat at an average of 9.05 bushels per acre, 12,441,000 bushels of barley at an average of 10.91 bushels per acre, and 3,051,000 bushels of oats at an average of 6.36 bushels per acre.

The estimated total production of wheat, barley and oats in 1967-68 is 41,488,000 bushels, 46,301,000 bushels less than the production of 87,789,000 bushels in 1966-67 and the lowest since 1959-60 when production was 26,291,000 bushels.

Estimates indicate that in 1967-68 the yield per acre of wheat is 7.61 bushels per acre less than the average of 16.66 bushels obtained during the ten seasons 1957-58 to 1966-67. The yield per acre of barley is 8.84 bushels less than the ten year average of 19.75 and that for oats 9.52 bushels less than the average of 15.88.

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

Crop	Area		Production	Yield per Acre
	Total	For Grain		
	'000 Acres		'000 Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	2,985	2,872	25,996	9.05
Barley	1,268	1,140	12,441	10.91
Oats	905	480	3,051	6.36
			'000 Tons	Tons
Cereal hay	228	-	165	0.72

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Final seed bed preparations were made in dry conditions as little or no rain fell during April and the general rains in the last half of May proved inadequate in all but a few isolated areas. Seeding operations were interrupted by the continuing dry conditions during June. Rainfall in July varied from a few points in some areas to above average in others but, with the exception of a few small areas, seeding was completed by the end of the month.

Useful rainfall was recorded in all areas during August but due to the wide variation in seeding dates and the patchy rainfall crop development varied considerably and prospects were dependent on favourable spring conditions. Favourable conditions coming out of winter into September and early October were offset by the hot, dry and windy finish.



Harvesting, which commenced in late October, progressed steadily throughout November and December under favourable conditions. Seldom has the harvest been made so early or with so little interruption.

The substantially reduced cereal production resulted from the dry start and finish to a season which did not receive much benefit from August and September rains.

The preliminary estimate for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April-November 1967 is 6.34 inches. For the same period, the mean for 62 years ended 1966 is 12.75 inches.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1963-64 to 1967-68

Tables 2 and 3 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay for 1967-68 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

TABLE 2 - CEREAL GRAIN : AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	Estimate 1967-68
WHEAT						
Total area sown	'000 acres	2,849	2,772	2,798	3,017	2,985
Area for grain	'000 acres	2,802	2,727	2,745	2,960	2,872
Production	'000 bushels	53,971	52,817	39,976	53,816	25,996
Yield per acre	bushel	19.26	19.37	14.56	18.18	9.05
BARLEY						
Total area sown	'000 acres	1,165	1,135	1,150	1,182	1,268
Area for grain	'000 acres	1,123	1,095	1,098	1,107	1,140
Production	'000 bushels	24,337	26,932	18,514	23,698	12,441
Yield per acre	bushel	21.67	24.60	16.86	21.41	10.91
OATS						
Total area sown	'000 acres	956	951	971	958	905
Area for grain	'000 acres	501	444	455	509	480
Production	'000 bushels	9,149	8,977	5,622	10,276	3,051
Yield per acre	bushel	18.27	20.23	12.37	20.19	6.36

Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in most years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be considerably greater than the estimated quantity shown in these bulletins.

TABLE 3 - CEREAL HAY : AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	Estimate 1967-68
Area sown	'000 acres	196	160	172	200	228
Production	'000 tons	259	229	185	267	165
Yield per acre	ton	1.32	1.43	1.07	1.33	0.72

D.L.J. AITCHISON

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN  
AND GOVERNMENT STATIST

